

Higher education enrollment issues



**House Higher Education
Committee**

January 15, 2003

W A S H I N G T O N
**H I G H E R
EDUCATION**
C O O R D I N A T I N G B O A R D

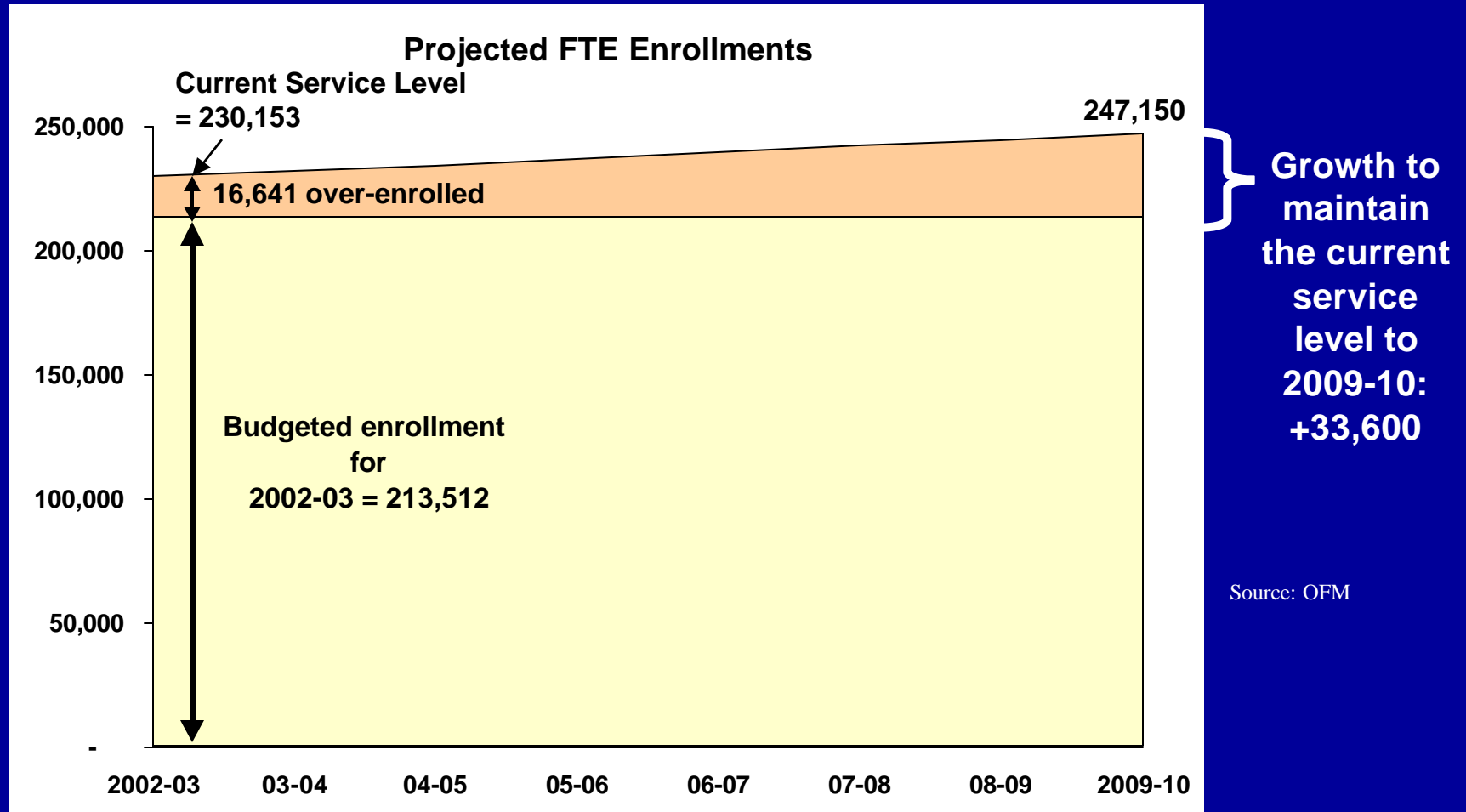
Take a longer-term look at enrollment needs in higher education

- Demographics
- Budgetary forces and history of over/under enrollments
- Other forces affecting higher education enrollments

What is the demographic impact on college attendance?

- The “participation rate” is the number of enrolled students compared to the population
- Overall, about 7% of the eligible population (age 17 and above) is enrolled in higher education
- The participation rate can be segregated by age, gender and sector of higher education
- The “current service level” is the projection of enrollments necessary to maintain this year’s participation rate

Maintaining the 2002 public higher education service level would require 33,600 more funded enrollment slots by 2010



“... getting policy without making policy”

- The state's current higher education policy is the net result of budget negotiations
- Often these decisions are without reference to any larger framework describing educational ends
- Spending needs compete with other areas of state government, (e.g., K-12, health care, prisons)
- Spending needs compete within higher education (e.g., enrollments, salaries, financial aid)

The current budget does not fund all the students who are enrolled

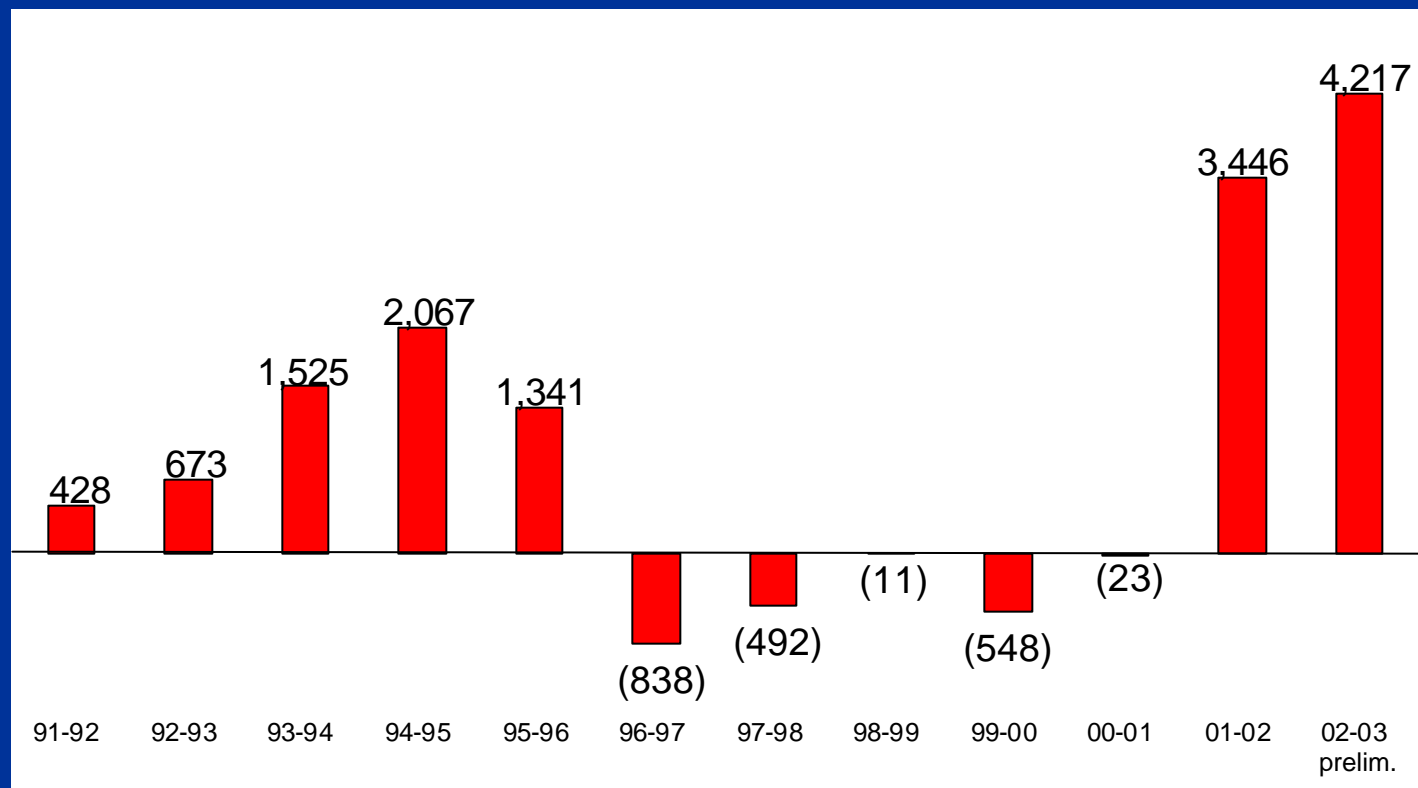
Public Higher Education Enrollment Levels 2002-03

	Budgeted Level	Projected Annual Average	Difference
4-Year	85,290	89,507	4,217
2-Year	128,222	140,646	12,424
Total	213,512	230,153	16,641

After several years of being close to the budget target, the public 4-year system is over-enrolled more than ever in 2002-03

Public 4-Year System FTE Enrollment Variance
Actual Compared to Budgeted

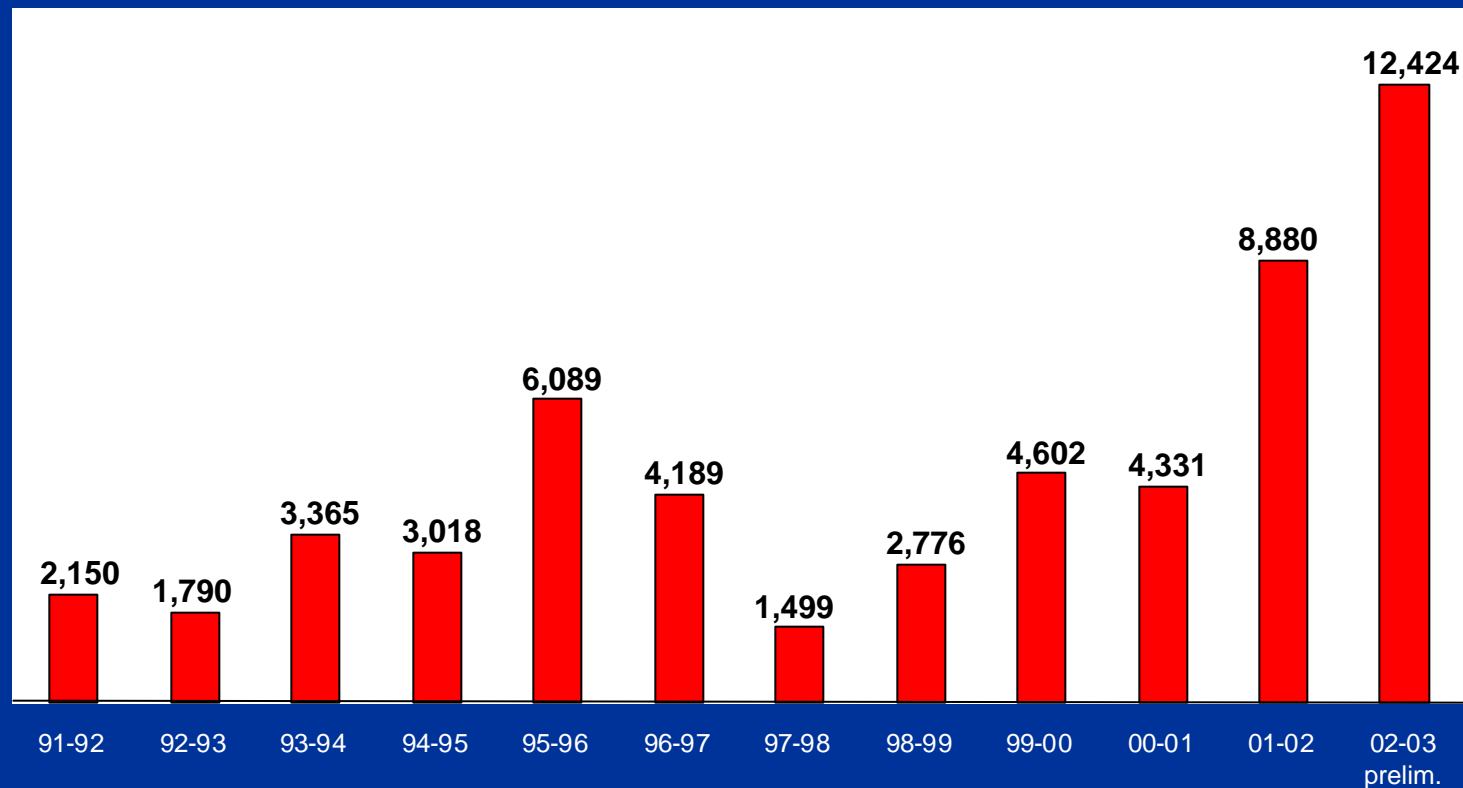
Source: OFM



In 2002-03, the public 2-year system also has a high level of over-enrollment

Community and Technical College System FTE Enrollment Variance
Actual Compared to Budgeted

Source: OFM



Is maintaining the current service level enough?

- The current service level recognizes only population growth and does not recognize:
 - Employer/workforce demands
 - Education reform
 - Running Start and other dual enrollment options
 - Technology
 - Transfers
 - Policy initiatives (underrepresented groups, place-bound students)